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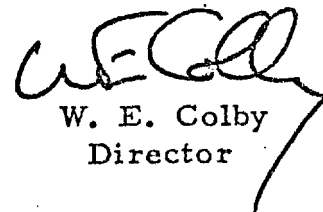
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ORG 1 NCLC (NATIONAL
CAUCUS OF LABOR
COMMITTEE)

18 February 1974

The Editor
The Washington Post
1150 15th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20005

The Washington Post's story about the National Caucus of Labor Committees (of 17 February 1974) could leave the impression with some of your readers that the CIA, through its refusal to comment, indeed might be involved in the kinds of activities the NCLC alleges. Our recollection is that we told your reporter that the NCLC appeared to be a domestic organization, so he should ask the Federal Bureau of Investigation rather than CIA for information about it. While it appeared self-evident that the NCLC charges are only twisted fantasy, your circulation of them forces CIA to deny them flatly as false.


W. E. Colby
Director

WEC:blp

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- 1 - ER
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Valentine, Paul W
 ORG 1 NCLC (NATIONAL
 CAUCUS OF LABOR
 Committees)

MARCUS, Lyn
 (orig under Valentine)

The Newest Left: Fighting the CIA, Saving the World

By Paul W. Valentine

Valentine is a writer on The Washington Post's metropolitan staff.

NEW YORK—Pale, intense, humorless, disciplined, the men and women work night and day in the cramped offices eight floors above the Manhattan streets.

Phones ring constantly. Staff workers take the calls, confer, snap brief orders to each other, rap memos on one of several typewriters, rummage through bulging file cabinets backed against the peeling walls and opaque painted windows.

The unmarked door to the offices is perpetually bolted. No stranger enters until security officers inside inspect him carefully through a peephole. Then there is a physical search.

This is the headquarters and nerve center of the National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC), a small, increasingly militant Marxist organization.

One of its obsessions is the Central Intelligence Agency. In emotionally supercharged tones, NCLC disciples proclaim they are gripped in a nightmarish web of CIA-directed conspiracy, brainwashing and assassination attempts designed to obliterate NCLC and its leader, Lyn Marcus.

The claims are shrouded in the demonic shadow world of psychological "programming," hypnotism, electroshock, drugs, sado-masochistic torture and sexual degradation forced on key NCLC members by CIA operatives and other sinister forces—not only to effect the assassination of NCLC leadership but also help trigger a fascist takeover of America.

Fervid NCLC followers see their organization—a spin-off of the now moribund Students for a Democratic Society (SDS)—as a pivotal force in bringing worldwide socialist revolution, and thus as a prime "counter-insurgency."

"We must work all the time," says

NCLC Washington member Bruce Director with apocalyptic urgency, "... because if we don't succeed, the end of the world as we know it is in sight."

Like Early Christians

ONE OF THE MOST active radical groups in the doldrum-like aftermath of the Vietnam war, NCLC pursues its various missions with something akin to messianic hysteria, deluging the news media with crisis-pitch press releases, leafletting factories and plants, predicting chaos, class war and revolution in four to five years and accusing the government of fomenting inflation, unemployment, strikes, urban gang warfare and other disruptive acts to justify a fascist crackdown.

"CIA Plans Assassinations of Revolutionary Youth," screams one press release headline. "CIA Brainwash Victim Recovering," says another.

Though small in numbers (New York police estimate nationwide membership at 700 to 1,000), NCLC has attracted into its bizarre world not only sons and daughters of old-line radical families of the 1930s but also children of politically conventional and even prominent families, including the sons of a Ford Foundation vice president, the daughter of the president of Sarah Lawrence College and the son of a high-ranking State Department official.

NCLC is "like an early Christian sect," says W. McNeil Lowry, the Ford Foundation vice president whose son, Graham, is a Boston NCLC member. "They think they're the only ones who can save the world."

"I stumbled into an NCLC study group at the University of Michigan," Wagner, 24. "I was attracted to it because it was the only serious group

troit auto firm," she says, and her mother is a housewife and part-time secretary. Like many NCLC members, she is reluctant to give identifying particulars about family members.

Speaking in clipped, unemotional tones, Miss Wagner says she has one brother, "a very traditional engineer ... but at least he's useful. I told him we can use him after the revolution."

This utilitarian view of the family pervades much of NCLC thinking.

"Part of our work is organizing our parents," says 20-year-old Bruce Director.

"It's just like organizing workers at a plant," says Miss Wagner. "... It requires a fundamental change in the relationship with our families—from a child-parent relationship to an adult-to-adult relationship."

The CIA Plot Theory

DIRECTOR, a small, wiry man with bright, darting eyes, who lives in Silver Spring, says that NCLC members are not congenitally conspiracyminded, and that many like himself at first doubted the CIA "master plot" ballyhooed by NCLC.

"I received it with some skepticism at first," he says. "I knew the country was not run by bourgeois democracy, but I was not exactly sure who was running it. ... NCLC made it clear to me who it is and how these real powers have had to mount a worldwide psychological operation to implement what they want."

NCLC leaders acknowledge that they have little direct concrete evidence of the "master plot," but through a network of "sources" and 24-hour-a-day monitoring of political, economic, trade union and other developments throughout the world, they say they are able to construct their conclusions on "inferential reasoning."

Principal architect of the CIA plot theory is Lyn Marcus, the lean and garrulous national chairman of NCLC who leads his organization with an authoritarian hand from the eighth floor headquarters at 231 W. 29th St. in Manhattan's Chelsea district.

During a five-hour nonstop interview, he described in minute detail

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